GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3545
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PERSONS
Singh Shri Dhananjay

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that persons with fifty percent or more of the physical deficiency including blindness are being deprived of the means of livelihood; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to create employment opportunities to improve their living conditions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON)

(a) & (b) Several steps have been taken for empowerment of persons with disabilities including visual impairment.

Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995 provides for three percent, reservations for persons with disability in identified posts in Government establishments.

Under the Scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector for Employment of Physically Challenged Persons, the Government of India provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for employees with disabilities employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000.

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides concessional credit to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) for setting up income generating activities for self-employment.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. If a rural disabled person applies for work, he/she is given work suitable to his/her ability.

Under the Scheme of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), assistance is provided to the BPL rural poor for establishing micro-enterprises through bank credit and government Subsidy to acquire an income generating asset. At least 3% of the total Swarozgaris should be persons with disabilities.

Under Deendayal Disable Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) financial assistance is provided through Non Governmental Organisations for various projects for providing education and vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.